

FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND RELIEF COMMODITIES SECTOR UPDATE



Staff offload USAID relief commodities at a warehouse in Beira city to support relief efforts following Tropical Cyclone Idai, which made landfall over central Mozambique in March 2019. Photo courtesy of Technical Sergeant Chris Hibben/U.S. Air Force.

Helping Partners Respond to the EVD Outbreak in the DRC

The Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak that began in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in August 2018 continued to affect populations in Ituri, South Kivu, and North Kivu provinces throughout FY 2019. The outbreak resulted in nearly 3,200 confirmed and probable cases and more than 2,100 related deaths between August 1, 2018, and September 30, 2019, becoming one of the world's largest EVD outbreaks on record, second only to the 2014–2016 EVD outbreak in West Africa.

During FY 2019, the USAID/OFDA Logistics Unit led efforts to procure, stockpile, and transport personal protective equipment (PPE) to help humanitarian partners stem the EVD outbreak. Working with the UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) and UN World Food Program (WFP), the Logistics Unit facilitated the transport of more than 52 metric tons (MT) of essential PPE from USAID/OFDA's warehouse in Dubai to North Kivu's Goma city for the EVD response. The PPE included 900,000 examination gloves; 23,100 protective face masks; 60,000 coveralls; and 825 disinfectant sprayers. After transporting the PPE to Goma, the logistics staff coordinated with WFP to distribute the items to USAID/OFDA partners operating in the region to protect frontline health workers and help prevent and control the spread of EVD.

USAID/OFDA Logistics Support FY 2019 FUNDING

Stand-Alone Global and Regional Logistics Support Programs	\$1,874,612
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Logistics Support Interventions Worldwide	\$93,091,913
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\$94,966,525¹

Sector Overview

As part of its effort to ensure rapid responses to humanitarian emergencies around the world, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) stores emergency relief supplies, such as blankets, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting, and water containers, at warehouses in Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Miami, United States; Pisa, Italy; and Subang, Malaysia.

In addition, USAID/OFDA deploys logistics personnel to assist with U.S. Government responses when a disaster strikes. With support from colleagues in Washington, D.C., deployed logistics staff manage the transport and consignment of relief commodities to USAID/OFDA partners operating in disaster-affected areas. USAID/OFDA's Logistics Unit also provides technical assistance to non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UN agencies, and host government counterparts in the immediate aftermath of a disaster and supports disaster risk reduction efforts to mitigate the impact of future disasters.

¹ USAID/OFDA FY 2019 logistics funding supported activities in more than 20 countries, including activities in the DRC, South Sudan, and Yemen.

Supporting Mozambique in the Wake of Tropical Cyclones Idai and Kenneth

In early 2019, consecutive tropical cyclones brought unprecedented rain, winds, and flooding to Mozambique and areas of Comoros, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. Tropical Cyclone Idai made landfall over central Mozambique's Sofala Province in March 2019, severely affecting populations in Sofala and Manica, Tete, and Zambézia provinces. Tropical Cyclone Kenneth followed in April, making landfall over northern Mozambique's Cabo Delgado Province and producing torrential rains in Cabo Delgado and Nampula Province. Across affected areas of Mozambique, the cyclones resulted in approximately 650 deaths; caused widespread flooding and extensive damage to crops, houses, and infrastructure; and left more than 2.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.

In response to the cyclones, two USAID/OFDA logisticians deployed to Mozambique as part of the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to help facilitate the transport of emergency relief items from USAID/OFDA warehouses in Dubai and Pisa, as well as UNHRD's warehouse in Brindisi, Italy, to Mozambique for partners to distribute to cyclone-affected populations. During the course of the response, the logistics personnel coordinated more than 20 USAID/OFDA-chartered flights that transported a total of nearly 640 MT of emergency relief commodities to Cabo Delgado's Pemba town and Sofala's Beira city. The commodities included shelter kits and plastic sheeting to provide temporary shelter and repair damaged homes, water treatment units and storage containers to ensure access to safe drinking water, household latrines, and kitchen sets, helping to support thousands of families in the aftermath of the cyclones.

Rapidly Responding to Humanitarian Needs in The Bahamas Following Hurricane Dorian

In September 2019, Hurricane Dorian made landfall over The Bahamas' Abaco and Grand Bahama islands as a Category 5 storm on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, bringing sustained winds of approximately 180 miles per hour, heavy rains, and storm surges of up to 23 feet. The hurricane led to nearly 60 deaths, as well as widespread flooding and destruction to infrastructure, and affected approximately 76,000 people.

The Logistics Unit rapidly deployed four staff to The Bahamas with the DART to support USAID/OFDA's relief operations following Hurricane Dorian. The logistics personnel helped transport 78 MT of 1100 rolls of plastic sheeting, 1600 hygiene kits, 3200 buckets, and 1200 water containers to the Bahamas National Emergency Management Agency and a USAID/OFDA NGO partner for distribution to populations affected by the hurricane. The Logistics Unit also facilitated the deployment of an urban search-and-rescue (USAR) team from Fairfax, Virginia, to The Bahamas via commercial aircraft to support rescue operations, as well as contracted an aircraft to enable the DART to conduct monitoring and surveillance trips to assess damage and inform response activities.

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USAID/OFDA is now part of USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA). Historical USAID/OFDA information products are available at: <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis>